

The monthly A*C*E

since 1982

March 2003

John T. ARTHUR heard

QSL # 7

Scruffy Swab

on

IRON RADIO

Date 2/17/2003 Time 23:55 Freq 6953

from the desk of the Managing Editor

Ye Olde jta: jta@localnet.com
or: (585) 365-8870 (not collect)

This month The A*C*E becomes old enough to drink legally in most States; that's right, the Club is 21 years young! It was March of 1982 that Darren S. Leno and Lani Pettit put together the first (complimentary) issue and sent it out to those they thought might be interested in helping to replace the suddenly defunct Free Radio Campaign-USA. That first issue was 8 pages and featured an interview with Crazy Roger of Radio Confusion, pirate logs from Lani Pettit, and a letter from John Moritz, Jr, complaining about the quality of pirate programming (sound familiar?). In May, when the second regular issue came out, the Club had 21 members.

It's a truism: The more things change, the more they remain the same (see Lee's comments about the latest programming brouhaha!). The cycle of Free Radio continues unabated, despite several FCC "crackdowns" over the years. And we're still here to report about it, despite the "naysayers" who claimed that The A*C*E was a flash-in-the-pan and wouldn't last. We've lasted because of You, the membership. Sincere Thanks! are due to our founders, Darren and Lani, along with Kirk Baxter, who guided us as President (and for the most part Publisher) for 11 years, to Pat Murphy and Steve Rogovich, who took the reins from Kirk when other duties forced him to step down, and to Harry Helms, who helped us greatly in the last year and a half by handling the publishing duties while I cleaned up the details of my Mother's estate.

A quick survey question: How many of you with internet access would like to get your copy of The monthly A*C*E by email, or possibly log onto a secure site and download it? The possibility exists that this could be done, and for a discounted price. Please email me if you're interested. No guarantee, but this is something that has been discussed behind the scenes for a while, and it's time we got some solid information to work with.

Enjoy the first "adult" edition of The monthly A*C*E, and don't forget to buy us a drink in the Hospitality Room at the Winter SWL Fest! 73, jta

FRN THE FREE RADIO NETWORK

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- ✓The ACE
- ✓Chat
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DIALOGS March 2003

Lee Reynolds, 53 Unity Springs Road, Lempster, NH 03605-3130
Email: lreynolds@spamcop.net

AIM: KD1SQ / ICQ: 4139354 / Yahoo IM: KD1SQ

(Next deadline for submissions: March 19th, 2003)

LATE LOGS

UNID

- 01/20/03, 0258, 6953A - mx- Rock, New Age. (MT-WI 233)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Nothing. Those aliens must have stolen Europe again...

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Big Thunder Radio (FRN/ACE)

- 02/03/03, 0307-0431, 6925U - mx - Reggae - antiwar and rights themed songs. "Stand Up For Your Rights." (Pse QSL JS-NE Good)(MT-WI 211)
- 02/06/03, 0150-0201, 6925U - mx - "Stand Up For Your Rights." (JM-WA 111)
- 02/16/03, 0427-0436+, 6925U - mx - a variety of TV theme tunes. Broadcasting from "south of Las Vegas." (JS-NE Fair)

Captain Morgan (FRN/ACE)

- 02/03/03, 0041-0122, 6950A - mx - "Life In The Fast Lane", Bond movie mx clips, Hendrix, Simon. A phone call about missing toilet paper. (AF poor)(GZ-PA 232)(JS-NE Fair)(JS-NE Poor)
- 02/10/03, 0008-0048*, 6950A - mx - Twilight Zone theme, clips of Hendrix, Paul Simon, Carly Simon. Mention of Al Fansome. ID of "This is Captain Morgan...in the Pirate Zone". (JS-NE Fair)(GZ-OH 252)
- 02/13/03, 0138-0209+, 6950A - mx - Hendrix, Stones, Miller. "You're in the Pirate Zone!" (AF Fair)(BF-PA)

Iron Man Radio (Belfast)

- 02/17/03, 2355-0019*, 6953A - mx - "The Smell", "The Blues Don't Tell It All." Bumping a spliff from Captain Ganja, Scruffy Schwab is your host. (AF Good)(JA-NY Good)

Lubavitcher Radio (www.therebbe.com)

- 02/03/02, 0030-0045+, 1710A - OM annr discussing Jewish issues. (GZ-PA)

Punxsutawney Pothead Radio (Belfast)

- 02/08/03, 2318-2330*, 6950A - mx - Nora Jones. (WS-TN 444)

Radio Free Speech (Belfast)

- 02/16/03, 2330-2341*, 6950A - discussion of debt, a game show spoof with the "lovely Colin Powell" turning the letters over. A speech by Richard Nixon. (AF Poor)(WS-TN 343)(This was probably a relay of an old show - it gave the Wellsville drop - Lee)

Radio Metallica Worldwide (None)

- 02/12/03, 0314-0329, 6955A – Doctor Tornado with a mix of announcements, TV show themes and the tune "Secret Agent Man." Seemed to morph into Captain Ron. (FM-NH 433)(JS-NE Poor)

Sycko Radio (None)

- 02/17/03, 0141, 6950U – mx – Metal. (AF Good)
- 02/17/03, 0357-0407, 6955A – mx – Rock. Rare but good tracks. (JS-NE Fair)

The Voice Of Captain Ron Shortwave (captainron6955@hotmail.com)

- 02/08/03, 2320, 6951U – the fearless Captain battles the Cardboard Box! (JA-NY 433)
- 02/12/03, 0045-0105, 6925A – Captain Ron relayed by WHYP. (BF-PA)
- 02/12/03, 0330-0341+, 6954A. (FM-NH 444)
- 02/14/03, 0229-0243*, 6953A – mention of Andy Yoder and the Captain hopes we all had fun listening to the show. Off w/"We Are All Made Of Stars." (JS-NE Poor)

Undercover Radio (undercoverradio@mail.com)

- 01/21/03, 0259-0304+, 6950A – ID, contact info, "We got to have leaders", "Mister America, hold onto your wallet!" (JS-NE Poor)
- 01/26/03, 2234, 6950A – Laurie Anderson. (WS-TN 242)
- 02/08/03, 2203-2245*, 6950U – mx – New Age. Host Doctor Benway thanking Alan Maxwell for use of his "Tesla device", ID of "Don't let them see us – don't tell them what we are doing!" We hear from William S. Burroughs. (JA-NY 444)(RC-MA Fair)
- 02/09/03, 0203-0310+, 6950A – mx – Laurie Anderson. "Broadcasting from the middle of nowhere", Weird scenes inside the studio. (JS-NE Fair)(WS-TN 333)
- 02/13/03, 0220-0248+, 6950A – a new program with Laurie Anderson and William Burroughs. An alien visits the studio. (JS-NE Fair)
- 02/16/03, 0022-0109, 6925U – mention of William Burroughs. (AF Fair)(FM-NH 545)
- 02/16/03, 0522-0552*, 6955U – rerun of an earlier show. (JS-NE Good)
- 02/17/03, 0013, 6950U – mx – creepy. "Undercover Radio – broadcasting from the middle of nowhere!" (AF Fair)

Voice Of The Rodent Revolution (None)

- 02/17/03, 0129*, 6950A – popped up immediately after WMOE's signoff, said "Voice of the Rodent Revolution" and abruptly signed off. (WS-TN 333)(Perhaps a WBNY transmission? - Lee)

WBST (None)

- 01/19/03, 2233-2306, 6950A – mx – Fleetwood Mac, Cliff Richards. (WS-TN 232)(Again, possibly an old, old relay. Gave a DC drop which is long gone.)

WHYP (whyp6925@yahoo.com)

- 02/12/03, 0125-0155, 6925A – "Another One Bites The Dust", Bad Company". Uncle Schleckstein. Orange alert. (AF Poor)(BF-PA)
- 02/13/03, 0030-0130, 6925A – mx – K-Tel tracks. Taking phone calls, James Brownyard accidentally banned from the FRN, a "Captain Ron/Moe" style broadcast. A request is played for the famous Bill Finn. (AF 433)(BF-PA)
- 02/14/03, 0114-0131*, 6953A – mx – Jackson Browne, Duran Duran. Winterfest comments and why JB won't be there this year. (JS-NE Fair)
- 02/18/03, 0333, 6953A – JB talking about being snowed in and his MP3 player. Uncle Schleckstein drops by. (MT-WI 323)
- 02/19/03, 0152, 6925A – mx – 80's Rock. JB signed off with an impression of Doctor Tornado and "73's." (MT-WI 333)

Wild Imagination Radio (none)

- 02/02/03, 0532-0600*, 6950A – skit, mentioned Oral Roberts. (WS-TN 333)
- 02/02/03, 2325-2336*, 6950A – skit with siren and knocking on doors. (WS-TN 222)
- 02/17/03, 0238-0245*, 6950A – skit about little green men landing in a spacecraft. (WS-TN 444)

WMOE (Belfast)

- 02/17/03, 0101-0128, 6950U – TechnoPop. Mention of Valentine's Day, discussion of President's Day. "Quiet, numbskulls – I'm broadcasting!" Sounded like a relay on the same TX as Undercover Radio. (AF Good)(RC-MA)(WS-TN 444)

WMPR (FRN)

- 02/06/03, 0142-0217, 6955U. (JM-WA 121)(MT-WI)
- 02/12/03, 0245-0309, 6955A – cat meow ID. (AF Poor)(FM-NH 454)(BF-PA)(JS-NE Fair)
- 02/15/03, 0209-0222+, 6955A – mx – Techno. Meow ID. "Shellshock." (AF Good)(JS-NE Good)
- 02/18/03, 0103, 6925A – mx – Techno. (AF Good)
- 02/18/03, 0222, 6955A – mx – Techno. Meow ID. (AF 544)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

UNID

- 01/26/03, 0000-0014*, 6955U – mx – Rock. OM anncr characterized the station as a "shaky operation that doesn't give up easily." Technical problems with transmitter and audio. No IDs given. (GZ-OH 252)
- 01/26/03, 2305-2322, 6950U – mx – Jackson Browne. (Pse QSL JS-NE Good)
- 01/28/03, 0322+, 6950U – mx – "We Are All Made Of Stars." "Fookin' slohbs!" (Pse QSL JS-NE Good)
- 02/03/03, 0015-0054*, 6955A – mx – Big Band instrumental. No IDs. (GZ-PA)
- 02/04/03, 0005-0055+, 6955A – mx – Big Band. Crunche-like. (AF Poor-Good)(JS-NE Poor)
- 02/12/03, 0210, 6950A – call to an FCC answering service? (AF Poor) (RF Speech. jta)

Mark Taylor in beautiful Madison, Wisconsin, is intrigued by the UNIDs he believes we've been hearing more of than usual. To that end he assembled a table of their activity to see if any common threads become visible. Below, is the result -

UnID chart: 1/10/03 – 2/18/03 Drawn from the ACE, Free Radio Weekly and Free Radio Network – ACE

Date	Freq.	Time	SIO	Content	States heard (If known)
01/10/03	6950A	2304	232	Music& Politics	TN
01/11/03	6950A	0047	232	Music	VA, TN
01/12/03	6949U	2320	222	Rock	PA, TN
01/13/03	6960A	0042	122	Rock, country, techno, no talk	WI
01/16/03	6924U	0014	555	Rock no talk	PA
01/16/03	6950L	0230	312	Movie soundtrack, Twilight zone	TX
01/18/03	6950U	0125	144	oldies, no talk	WI, NH, NY, FL
01/18/03	6955A	0210	532	distorted audio, rock	
01/18/03	6955U	0045	144	Motown (prob. Same as 125 op)	WI, TN, NH, NY, NE
01/18/03	6950U	0228	353	Motown (prob. Same as 125 op.)	WI, TN, NH, NY
01/16/03	6951A	0603	343	Arcade sounds, barking dog song	
01/18/03	6955A	2218	544	Yes, Rush	PA, WI, TN
01/19/03	6955A	0345	555	Yes, Rush(repeat of 2218 prgm.)	PA
01/20/03	6955A	0259	555	Music	PA, TX
01/21/03	6950U	0112	343	Music	ID
01/21/03	6950U	0342	243	Rock	PA
01/23/03	6950A	0236	222	Motown	ID
01/24/03	6950A	0401	242	Music	PA
01/26/03	6950U	0600	S8	Music	TX
01/27/03	6925A	0130	S5	Piano dirge, country music	
01/27/03	6955A	2224	353	music, talk	PA, OH
01/26/03	6950U	2301	212	Rock, no talk	PA, WI
01/28/03	6955U	0326	233	Music	PA
01/29/03	6955U	2355	333	Country	
01/29/03	6950U	0326	232	Rock, no talk, long pauses	PA
02/01/03	6925A	0358	333	Music	PA
02/03/03	6950A	2120	rap and blues	TN	
02/03/03	6925U	0307	211	Reggae	NE

02/03/03 6950U	0140 242 Skits, ads	TX, PA
02/04/03 6955A	0010 444 Big Band	PA
02/05/03 6950A	0146 7 Skits and comedy	TX, PA, Others
02/09/03 21890	1348 222 vocals and dance music	
02/09/03 6950A	1842 222 poetry	MD
02/12/03 6950A	0205 322 Various pirate ID's and program	
02/17/03 6950U	0412 212 music and Op talking	
02/17/03 6950A	0233 444 "the aliens are coming for me"	PA
02/18/03 6925A	0123 443 music	PA

QSL CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE

John Arthur, P.O. Box 1, Belfast, NY (JA-NY)
 Ross Comeau, 16 Linwood Street, Andover, MA 01810 (RC-MA)
 Al Fansome (AF)
 Bill Finn, 2905 Tyson Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (BF-PA)
 Fred Moe, 36 West Main Street, Warner, NH 03278 (FM-NH)
 John Morris, Whidbey Island, WA (JM-WA)
 John Sedlacek, 2728 North 45th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68104 (JS-NE)
 Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, TN 37950 (WS-TN)
 Mark Taylor, 1114 Ellen Avenue, Madison, WI 53716 (MT-WI)
 George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)
 George Zeller, French Creek Expedition, PA (GZ-PA)

TEN (and TWENTY) YEARS AFTER...

March 83 - The ACE was one year old and had 115 members. This issue was 16 pages; DiaLogs was 5 pages, including two pages of clandestines, 4 MW and 11 SW stations reported by 13 contributors. Stations included: KMA, KCFR, Radio Clandestine, Radio Morania, and Radio North Star Intl.

March 93 - This issue was 32 pages and featured a Radio DC QSL on the cover; DiaLogs was 11 pages, including 1 MW (RFM on 1620) and 53 SW stations reported by at least 26 contributors. Stations included: CSIC, Ground Level Network, Jolly Roger Intl, one of at least two KUNTs, Midnite Radio, Omega Radio, Radio Baghdad, RKNA, Tangerine Radio, and Voice of the Night.

RAMBLINGS

Been a heck of a month. Terrorists, Columbia, Orange Alerts, Henweis...what next?

This newsletter **might** make it into your hands before Winterfest on March 7th and 8th – if it does, it's still not too late to attend! <http://www.swlfest.com> is the link to the most fun you can still have *without* Sandra Bullock, a tub of Crisco and a rolled-up copy of the National Enquirer! Of course, if you get both the 'fest AND those items...

Observation – the guys at Swinging Radio England thought the loss of the Columbia was a real hoot judging by the nasty jokes about the deceased they were posting in one of the Topica Pirate forums/mail groups within a few days of the accident. Let's hope the DTI (*has the same responsibilities as the FCC*) has them in the Graybar hotel and married to a 6'4", 350-pound child molester named "Bluto" in time for spring!

Some people are embarrassments to the hobby and to humanity in general, SRE is now one such group, at least in my opinion.

On another note, the good Gerry Dexter doesn't seem enthralled with the general quality of Pirate programming of late, going so far as to categorize most American Pirate shows as terrible in a European SW listener magazine. Come on folks; prove Gerry wrong, let's have some shows put together just to show him that we can do better! How about "Gerry goes to Turkish Prison" as an example of potential programming? Grab those sacred cows, sharpen that hatchet – let's have some good hamburger here, eh? I want mine **extra** crispy!

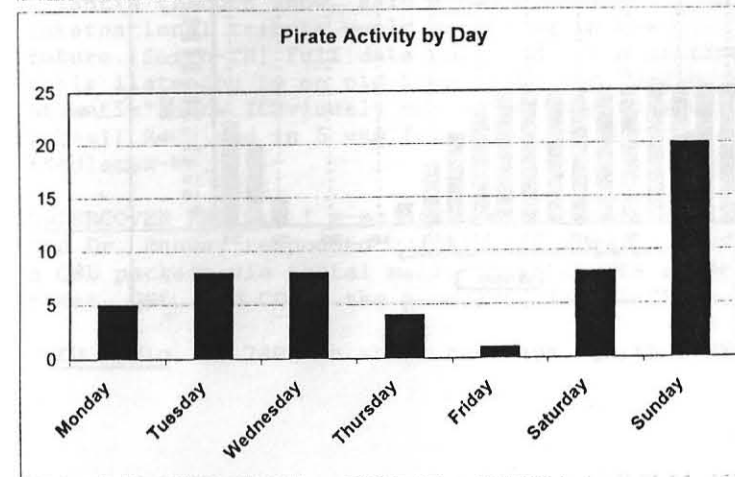
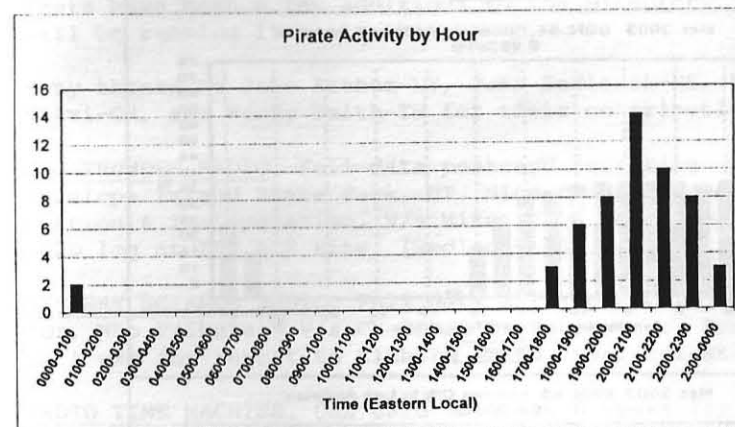
I've been playing radio geek this month – ever hear of something called "DRM"? It's a new system for transmitting audio on shortwave using a *digital* signal. You have to have a radio with a 15-20kHz bandwidth IF and an IF output frequency of 12kHz. You can then feed that signal into your PC's sound card and decode it into regular audio with the right software. Betcha didn't know that the inexpensive Ten-Tec RX-320 (a fine radio and one that's quite good for Pirate listening, too) can be made to do the job! I think I have to be one of less than a dozen hobbyists in North America that are now able to receive that stuff...

A request, once again – please report your logs with a simple "Good", "Fair" or "Poor" as your evaluation of the signal. We're switching to this simpler system because I see at least three different ways of interpreting the SIO system being used by people so, I figure that this method is less prone to misinterpretation. (*There's only ONE correct way! jia*)

As ever, thanks to all those who took the time to send in their logs – it's very much appreciated!

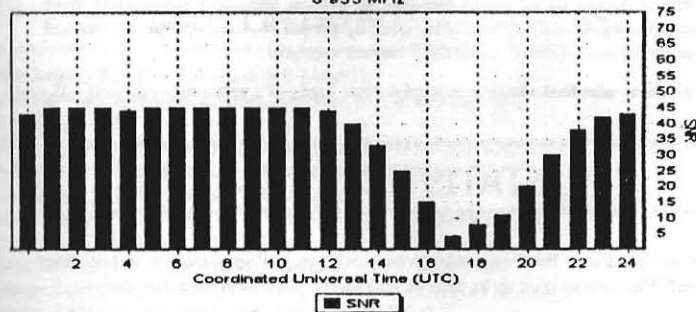
STATISTICS

Interesting – what, are our Pirate buddies suddenly busy with on a Friday evening – traveling somewhere, perhaps? Whatever they're up to, they're also hitting the sack a bit earlier, too.

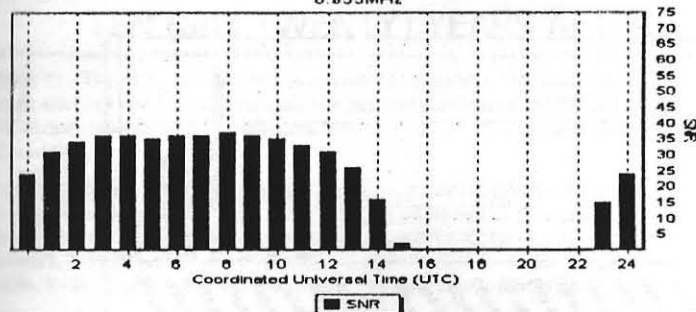


PROPAGATION

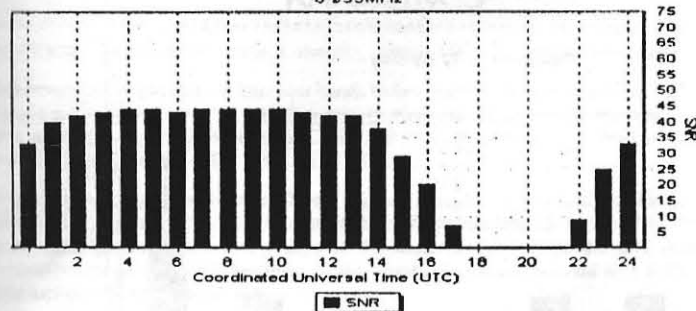
Mar. 2003 88N: 85 Philadelphia to Kansas City
8.955 MHz



Mar. 2003 88N: 85 Philadelphia to Los Angeles
8.955MHz



Mar. 2003 88N: 85 Kansas City to Los Angeles
8.955MHz



VERIED RESPONSE

CHRIS LOBDELL

BOX 146

STONEHAM, MA 02180

Email: clobdell@attbi.com

NEXT COLUMN DEADLINE: March 19th

Greetings from the still frozen and now snowy north. We just had a nice (?) snowstorm whip through here on President's Day. Well, that pot smoking groundhog in Punxsutawney, PA, did see his shadow so I guess there will be six more weeks of winter.

There have been a few additions to The Directory, so we will be running it again this month.

Many thanks to John Arthur-NY, John Sedlacek-NE, Lee Silvi-OH, and Woody Smith-TN for their contributions.

BIG THUNDER RADIO. Full data postcard featuring Antelope Island State Park, UT. Nice comments about station & its operation. V/s Mike. Rc'd in 1 week for UNID log at FRN/ACE site. [Sedlacek-NE]

MYSTERY SCIENCE RADIO. Full data MST3k postcard for "Dr. Who Tribute." V/s Cherokee Jack Perkins. Received in 5 wks for report to Elkhorn drop. [Sedlacek-NE]

RADIO TIME MACHINE. QSL card in about 6 weeks for Radio Atlantis tribute show, said a Radio Nordsee International tribute would be coming in the future. [Smith-TN] Full data postcard w/man sitting in chair listening to an old-time radio for "Radio Atlantis" show. (Obviously one w/the warm glow of tubes!) Received in 5 wks for report to Elkhorn drop. [Sedlacek-NE]

UNDERCOVER RADIO. I e-mailed him a reception report and Dr. Benway responded quickly via e-mail, then sent a QSL package via postal mail. It includes a fact sheet, QSL, and CD of the programs. [Silvi-OH]

VUDU Radio, 27.740U in about two days. [Arthur-NY]

The Directory

edition 41 [2-17-03]

by: Chris Lobdell

I'm relying on you, the fans of free radio, to help keep this up-to-date, so look it over and send me any corrections or additions that you know of! Thanks.

KEY:

BC = broadcast or broadcasting	Intl = International
FR = Free Radio	Svc = Service
ot = of the	Vo = Voice of
mx = music	Vot = Voice of the
R = Radio	Vox = Voice
RF = Radio Free	WW = Worldwide

Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711:

Ironman Radio, Punxsutawney Pothead Radio, R Azteca, RF Euphoria, RF Speech, R Pigmeat Intl, R USA, Take It Easy R, Vot Runaway Maharishi, Vox America, Vot Angry Bastard, VUDU/Voodoo Radio, WBIG, WDRR

Box 69, Elkhorn, NE 68022

KIPM, Mystery Science Radio, Radio Time Machine, The Purple Nucleus Of Creation, Voice A Da Tiki, Voice Of The Abnormal, The Purple Nucleus Of Creation, WAIR

Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214:

CKLW, CSIC, East Coast Beer Drinker, Free Hope Experience, Ground Zero R., He Man R, R Cochiguaz, R Marabu, R Neptune Universal Svc, R Pirana Intl, Vot Purple Pumpkin, WLIS.

Box 293, Merlin, ONT NOP 1W0, Canada:

Blind Faith R, CSIC, Happy Hanukkah, Laser Hot Hits, R Gemini, R. Marabu, R Merlin Intl, R Toronto, Undercover Radio, Vo Juliet, Voice Of Free Radio Indiana

Box 422, Wellsville, NY 14895:

WDRR

Box 1212, Dunedin, NZ:

Southern Music R

Box 3103, Onekawa, Napier, NZ:

KIWI (NZ), R G'day (AU), Radio Sue (NZ), Radio Eureka Intl [AU]

Box 11522, Huntsville, AL 35814:

Vo Bizarro World, WPN

Box 28413, Providence, RI 02908:

Harold Krishna's Mx Svc, Indira Calling, Lounge Lizard Radio, Partial India R, Scream ot Butterfly, Vot Runaway Maharishi, WHYP, WMFQ

That's it till next month. Happy Pirate QSLing!

CLANDESTINE PROFILE

by George Zeller

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1300-2200 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my georgez@nacs.net address, with <http://www.nacs.net/~georgez> providing access to my web page.

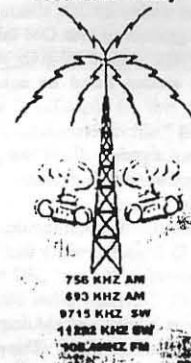
INFORMATION RADIO STILL THE CLANDESTINE STAR OF IRAQ WAR

As we have printed in both the January and February issues of *The ACE*, The USA's airborne clandestine, **Information Radio**, continues to broadcast to Iraq on 9715 and 11292 kHz shortwave between 1500 and 2000 UTC. The aircraft-based station is also transmitting on two medium wave frequencies on 692 and 756 kHz as well as a FM band transmission on 100.4 MHz.

Last month we had a fairly bad experience in trying to print a photo of Steve Anderson in *the ACE*. But, this month, courtesy of numerous photos printed on internet press sites, I hope that we will have better luck in printing a photo of the leaflets that the USA has dropped on Iraq announcing the frequencies and schedule of Information Radio.

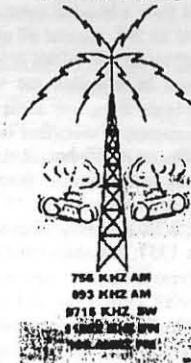
FRONT

Information Radio
1800-2300 Daily



BACK

Information Radio
1800-2300 Daily



The USA media, including network television newscasts, widely covered the story of these leaflets being dropped in Iraq. I saw the CBS News coverage of this story myself, because it came on TV right after I watched myself on the local TV news in Columbus after watching myself on WBNS-TV after we released one of my poverty reports at work. Dan Rather's coverage of this story showed Arabic-looking people walking around and picking up leaflets off the ground. The CBS News story did not make it clear whether this particular footage was staged, but I presume that it had to be.

In contrast to the widely reported loggings of Information Radio from North America during its Afghanistan operations last year, loggings of the Iraqi Information Radio operations from North America have been very sparse. But, as you can see below, there is some possibility that you can hear this station, and it would be an excellent idea to check out 9715 kHz during the early afternoon, especially if you live in the eastern part of North America.

So far, (see below), neither the United States government nor the United Kingdom government has threatened criminal sanctions against clandestineradio.com for their open internet coverage of unlicensed political broadcasters.

FRENCH CREEK DXpedition

On February 3 and 4 I was in attendance at the French Creek DXpedition at French Creek State Park between Reading and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. At this DXpedition I heard quite a few clandestine stations. I'll make an exception to the usual format of this column by just listing these logs in the same way that I sent them in to various DX publications.

unid- 9715 1940-2030 2/3/03. This one was a prgm of middle eastern mx, mainly vocals, but also some orchestra mx at times. Both OM and YL ancrs were heard, with multiple mentions of America, and one mention of Colombia that might have been a reference to the exploded space shuttle, rather than the South American country. I stayed with it a long time, but did not copy an ID. Several of us also listened to this one, and I don't think that any of us got an ID. But, this was the first time that I ever heard anything that even possibly might be the Commander Solo station. I've seen numerous logs of this from Europe, but none from North America since the end of the Afghan war, when the signal was audible nightly in Ohio. I can't say for sure that this is what it was, but it's the first time that I've even seen a tentative reception of this one from NA. The signal was weak but steadily audible, with some slop from above that was easily knocked out by the passband shift on either the Icom R-9000 or the Ten Tec 340. At 2025 it went underneath the piano IS from Turkey. At 2030 Turkey came on with a program in FF, completely obliterating the unid possible clandestine. Thus, we are not sure that this one was Information Radio, but it was the first time that I heard anything even close to what might be this, despite numerous prior checks from Ohio. It was also the first time that a tentative unid was the highlight of a DXpedition for me. (Zeller-FCDX)

V. of New Sudan- 6985 0405-0445+ 2/3/03 and 0355-0410+ 2/4/03. This one was much better on 2/4 than on 2/3, given QRM from a Mossad numbers/letters station on 2/3, although the signal was stronger on 2/3 than it was on 2/4. Almost all of the programming was OM talks, although there was some Arabic OM vocal music mixed in occasionally. I have to give Woody Smith some credit for this one, since he e-mailed me with the station listed as unid before the DXpedition. (Zeller-FCDX)

(non-log) I checked repeatedly on 4050 but could find no sign at all of the alleged "Hit Shortwave" targeted to Afghanistan. This station is apparently inaudible in eastern PA.

R. Farda- 15410 1710-1757+ 2/3/03. Prgm of mainly middle eastern vocal music, with several clear R. Farda ID's. Still on at 1757, but obliterated by DW IS from Germany that signed on at that time. (Zeller-FCDX)

V. of Reform- 7590 2115-2122+ 2/3/03. This one was reasonably well audible despite a modest signal and a ferocious jammer operating mostly on the USB side of the signal. The programming consisted of Arabic talks by OM's, but we lacked an Arabic speaker in the cabin to provide a translation. (Zeller-FCDX)

R. Sedaye Kashmir (presumed)- 9890 *0230-02345+ 2/3/03. This one had a mix of YL vocals and some instrumental mx, with a clear carrier but little recoverable audio. Thus, no ID was possible. (Zeller-FCDX)

The highlight of the DXpedition was obviously my tentative, although unid, possible reception of Information Radio. There have been very few such loggings from North America so far, but this logging indicates that it would be well worth the effort to check 9715 kHz around 1900 UTC to see if you can hear this one.

CLANDESTINE RADIO WATCH

We often mention the invaluable Clandestine Radio Watch newsletter here in *The ACE*. Given the world situation right now, this web site is an essential resource for everybody not just clandestine radio DXers. As always, the newsletter is available via e-mail and also via the clandestine radio com web site at <http://www.clandestineradio.com> on the internet. I highly recommend that you check out this web site and newsletter to stay on top of very recent developments that have taken place since the column deadline for *The ACE* and other shortwave publications.

STONEHENGE BUILT BY SWISS?

Larry Magne, the chief maven at International Broadcasting Services and *Passport to World Band Radio* forwards information this month that a new theory has developed in archaeological circles that the mysterious stone monuments at Stonehenge in England were possibly built to the design of a Swiss engineer. According to an item carried on MSNBC news, archaeologists who uncovered a grave three miles from Stonehenge have determined that the tooth enamel of the individual in that grave indicates that he is of alpine origin. I'll quote just a couple of sentences from the MSNBC report to give you an idea of what is going on here:

"Researchers hailed the find of a tooth from about 2300 B.C. and the oldest-known grave in Britain as one of the richest early Bronze Age sites in Europe. He was dubbed 'The King of Stonehenge' because of the lavish items found in his grave, including some of the earliest gold objects ever found in Britain. Tests on the enamel of his teeth revealed he was born and grew up in the Alps region."

Obviously the Swiss were not engaged in clandestine broadcasting to England in 2300 B.C., but the monument has remained one of the biggest clandestine mysteries in the world for the last 4300 years.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT ATTACKING PIRATE WEB SITES

This particular item is off-topic for this column, since we cover clandestine broadcasts rather than pirates in the "Clandestine Profile." But, it is of sufficient importance that I think that it has to be covered in *The ACE* somewhere. Artie Bigley discovered an article on the internet, posted by the ZDnet UK news service, that covers an ongoing attempt by the government of the United Kingdom to rid the UK of pirate radio broadcasts. This government effort has expanded beyond the normal RF enforcement activities that are common all across the world.

According to ZDNet UK, "the UK government has turned to internet service providers to help in its fight against pirate radio stations." The ZDNet UK story from February 23 notes that the Radiocommunications Agency, which is the J. Eager Heaver of England, is asking internet service providers to close down web sites that they host with content that promotes pirate radio stations.

The RA says that individuals and corporations "who advertise (pirate broadcasters) or provide premises are also liable to be prosecuted," not just the pirate broadcasters themselves. The UK Department of Trade and Industry noted in the ZDNet UK story that this liability for prosecution "includes people who promote pirate stations on the Web." The RA indicates that it is seeking to bring prosecutions against internet service providers who provide such promotion to pirate broadcasters. On February 18 an unidentified spokesman for the UK Department of Trade and Industry told ZDNet UK, "We're working with the internet industry on the issue of Web sites that are illegally advertising these (pirate) stations." That same spokesman said, "ISP's have been happy to act when we tell them that certain material is illegal." That same spokesman indicated to ZDNet UK that their approach and strategy is, "based on cooperation, not threats."

The last paragraph of the ZDNet UK account sounds like the old bogus lines that the FCC used to insert into its press releases on the bust of USA pirates. That paragraph reads, "Because pirate radio stations are not allocated radio frequencies by the RA, but instead transmit without regard

for authorised users, they can interfere with the radio transmissions of the emergency services and the Civil Aviation Authority." This claim, from either the RA or the FCC, is of course completely bogus, since I have never seen a case where a North American shortwave pirate genuinely interfered with aircraft in flight, or similar inflammatory claims that the FCC routinely made in the past.

This is one of the most outrageous accounts that I have seen in quite some time. It is one thing to enforce RF radio regulations against pirates, but it is quite another thing altogether to go after criminal sanctions against internet web sites that mention unlicensed broadcasting. The censorship of internet web sites on the grounds of radio enforcement against pirates is something that is normally associated only with dangerous political dictatorships. Thus, it now turns out that Tony Blair is not only willing to slit his own throat by the drastic curtailment of the BBC North American service during a time of world crisis, but also, like Saddam Hussein, Mr. Blair is operating a dangerous dictatorship that precludes the freedom of UK internet service providers to host web sites. Since Mr. Blair also admits to having weapons of mass destruction under his control, a good case can be made that he should be upgraded to membership in President Bush's "Axis of Evil."

It is hard to say if the original story is still posted on the internet, but if you would like to try and take a look at the article, <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/story/0,1269-s2130717.00.html> was the original URL for the story posted on ZDNet UK that Artie Bigley noticed in the first place.

THANK YOU HARRY HELMS

As all of us already know, Harry Helms has resigned as ACE publisher after a very highly successful stint at this volunteer job. We all owe a tremendous debt to Harry, and I want to thank him very much for the tremendous job that he did for our club.

Longtime ACE members will remember that our club was at the forefront of shortwave club technology back in the days when Kirk Baxter was our publisher. He created the ACE BBS, which was the first internet bulletin board in the world that was operated by a shortwave club. This later evolved into the ANARC BBS. The widespread expansion of the internet eventually made the BBS system obsolete, but our club was right at the frontier of the development of new technology back in those days. Harry Helms continued to place ACE in the forefront of publishing technology. As most of us know, he produced several bulletins in a row that were published in Adobe Acrobat .pdf files. Some of you reading this column are probably new ACE members that were attracted to us by the free .pdf files that Harry distributed for free over the internet to anybody who requested one. Someday this will be a common practice in all shortwave clubs, as Harry has pointed out to me on numerous occasions. Already, *Monitoring Times* magazine and the Ontario DX Association's *Listening In* bulletin are regularly available via .pdf format to subscribers who request it. But, once again, Harry moved ACE into a pioneering role in our hobby. I want to give full credit to Harry as I thank him here for his tremendous work as our publisher.

THANKS!

The input of ACE members and other DXers is vitally important to this column, and to all other ACE columns. We thank Martin Schoech (Germany), Artie Bigley (Ohio), Woody Smith (Tennessee), Larry Magne (Pennsylvania), and George Zeller (Ohio) for providing material. Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by March 15 for the April 2003 *Clandestine Profile*.

RANDOM TRANSMISSIONS

by Frederick Moe

singinggrove@conknet.com

Here we are in March and it appears there may be hope that Spring will arrive after all. I've enjoyed excellent reception conditions in the neighborhood of 6925 and 6955 in February. One of the broadcasts I was pleased to hear was from Captain Ron, one of my favorite pirate broadcasters, who graciously agreed to an interview for this month's column.

FM: When did you begin broadcasting on shortwave and can you talk about your inspirations and early experiences with pirate radio?

CR: I first discovered pirate radio while reading an issue of Popular Communications magazine. I was in high school at the time, and was an active CB'er and 11 meter freebender. I had very little knowledge of the HF spectrum below 26 mhz and at first didn't really understand what I was looking at. I remember seeing station names like Radio Free Euphoria, Radio 3, WREC, etc. I read the programming details that people had noted for the stations, and eventually I got the idea. Almost immediately I found myself saying, "this is something I have to do". Shortly thereafter I acquired a DX 440 receiver. All I really had for an antenna at that time was my 11 meter vertical, and I recall spending quite a bit of time listening before I actually heard a pirate broadcast. My memory is not 100% but one of the first stations I can remember hearing was Radio 3 with Sal Ammoniac. I was really excited. In that same time period I heard others such as WREC, WLIS, Lounge Lizard Radio, Radio Azteca, Radio Metallica, Blind Faith Radio, and a few others as well. All of these stations had a big influence on who eventually became "Captain Ron". It took me a while to even figure out what kind of equipment I needed to broadcast myself. Eventually acquired an older ham radio transceiver, and decided it was time to take to the airwaves. My first "broadcast" that I attempted was a Halloween night and I really don't recall for sure but it was either 1997 or 98; a while before Captain Ron had materialized. I fired up the transmitter on frequency in the 40 meter broadcast band, around 7.465 if I recall. At the time I didn't realize the rig would transmit on 6955 because the dial only read from 7.000 to 7.500 mhz. I also had a lot to learn about antennas, at the time thinking my 11 meter vertical would work. Needless to say, the sweep tube finals went up in a flash of blue light and a puff of smoke. It wasn't until the following summer that I got the transmitter running again. By that time I had learned a bit more and had constructed a dipole cut for 6955. I fired up the transceiver again, and broadcast the first and only show from "WEMP electromagnetic pirate radio". The broadcast was actually reported in Pop Comm, and I thought that was the coolest thing in the world. I decided to go ahead and develop some sort of on air personality, a sort of "alter ego" that actually turned out to be more of a mirror image of myself. I decided, for no particular reason, to call him Captain Ron. I came up with a new station called "Radio Smooth" and did a few transmissions under that name, but still wasn't quite satisfied. Finally I settled on "The Voice of Captain Ron Shortwave". The station started getting a few more reception reports and, for better or worse, that's the name I've stuck with ever since.

FM: What type(s) of transmitting equipment do you use?

CR: For the most part I use Ham radio equipment, in some cases slightly modified for wider frequency coverage, etc. My main transmitter is a solid state HF transceiver. I have operated using both wire antennas, such as dipoles, and mobile antennas. A portable CD player serves as my audio source, and I always carry several aluminum rods, 4 to 6 inches in length which I duct tape to my body for better grounding during a broadcast.

FM: What are some of your favorite moments from your broadcasts (or other stations' programs you have heard)

CR: I've heard some really cool stuff over the past few years. I know James Brownyard has caused me to soil myself from laughing more than once. I also really dig Syeko radio because he often reminds me of myself. I like driving around at night listening to KIPM. I do remember

actually one time I was in a QSO with Dr. Tornado and Jimmy The Weasel. I think JB might have been in there too. I was operating portable, from a car using a dipole strung up in the trees, and it seems to me it was either a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The details of the conversation have kinda faded in my memory but I do recall how awesome it was to actually get to talk to other pirate stations, even though Jimmy kept insisting that I "needed help" and would be best off to "throw my radio into the abyss", I know it was all in fun, and Jimmy really liked me...I think.

FM: What are your thoughts on the current free radio scene?

CR: There seems to be quite a lot of activity, and some new stations coming on the air so I guess that's good. I think pirate radio will survive for many years to come, and I hope I do too.

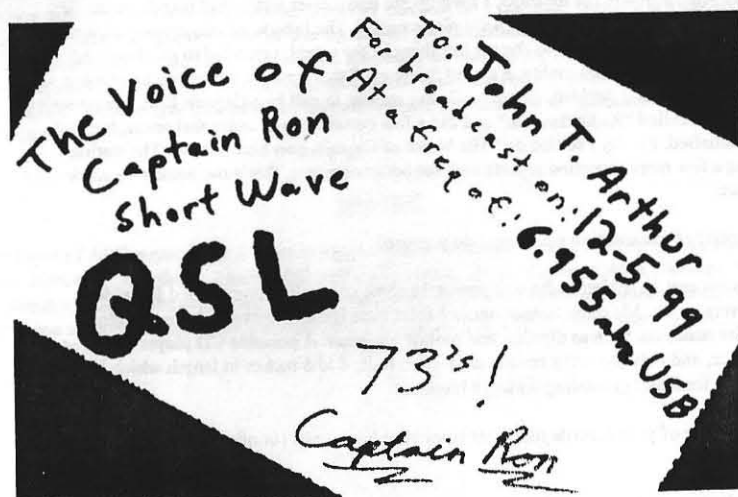
FM: What's up with the cardboard box?

CR: The cardboard box originated in a show I did called "The adventures of Captain Ron Files". The whole thing was sort of a cheesy X-Files crossed with KIPM type of show, just something for fun. In the show I was attacked and nearly killed by an evil cardboard box. It later became a rumor that I lived in a cardboard box behind Al Fansome's trailer in the MT. Kisco NY trailer park. So I guess the box and I are getting along just fine now.

FM: Is there anything else you'd like people to know about the Voice of Captain Ron Shortwave?

CR: Well, I really do appreciate all the people who listen and take the time to email me reception reports. I love reading people's reports, I still find it amazing that people actually hear me and often seem to like the broadcasts. Sometimes it takes me a while to get the QSL's mailed out but I do the best I can. In the future I hope to upgrade my station equipment and programming. I have a lot of programming ideas bouncing around in my head that I would like to try to get on the air with a decent signal someday. Free Radio is a great way of exercising our freedom of speech and freedom of expression. I encourage all who have an interest to learn more about it.

FM: One of my all-time favorite QSLs is a hand-drawn and colored QSL card from Captain Ron, true to the DIY pirate radio spirit. Thank you Captain Ron for enlivening the airwaves! Until next month, 73's from the foothills here in New Hampshire.



Covert Comms

by Chris Smolinski



Welcome to a new edition of Covert Corner. I'm your new editor, Chris Smolinski.

For the next few columns, we'll be focusing on the spy numbers stations most easily heard here in the US. With war looming in the Middle East (yet again), there's no better place to start than the MOSSAD stations, ENIGMA ID E10. (ENIGMA is a European numbers club, they have given each numbers station a unique ID) While it has never been proven that these stations are actually run by or for MOSSAD, it is pretty much established that they are run by the state of Israel.

E10 is one of the largest networks of spy numbers, or in this case, spy LETTERS, stations in existence. There are dozens of frequencies in use. It is also a very active network, transmitting at all hours of the day (though not always audible in the US at all times). Winter is an excellent time to listen to E10, as they make heavy use of low frequencies which only propagate during darkness. And unlike most other numbers stations, they transmit letters, using standard NATO phonetics.

E10 transmissions almost always begin at either the hour (H), H+15, H+30, or H+45 minutes. A three letter callsign is repeated for several minutes. If no traffic is to follow, then the number TWO is appended to the end of the callsign. Otherwise, the message is sent, and then repeated. For example:

EZI EZI EZI EZI... repeated for several minutes
MESSAGE MESSAGE
GROUP 45 GROUP 45
TEXT TEXT
HKSEU IKLKY QGHDT... 45 groups of 5 letters each are sent
END OF MESSAGE
REPEAT REPEAT
GROUP 45 GROUP 45
TEXT TEXT
HKSEU IKLKY QGHDT... 45 groups of 5 letters each are sent
END OF MESSAGE
END OF TRANSMISSION

On rare occasions, the format is changed, and instead of sending a message, the ID itself is modified to contain the message, which may be repeated for hours on end. Only certain E10 callsigns do this, VLB, MIW, and KPA being the most common. EZI, the most easily heard E10 ID here in the US (since it uses higher frequencies) has never sent a message string, as they are called.

Also some IDs like the share frequencies, such as SYN, VLB, and KPA. So don't be surprised if a different ID shows up on frequency.

kHz	Callsign	kHz	Callsign	kHz	Callsign
2270	JSR	5230	SYN	8464	SYN
2626	FTJ	5339	THS	8641	KPA
2743	ULX	5437	ART	8805	PCD
2844	YHF	5530	MIW	9130	EZI
2953	VLB	5630	SYN	9270	SYN
3090	CIO	5820	YHF	9382	YHF
3150	PCD	6270	ULX	10125	MIW
3270	KPA	6370	KPA	10352	SYN
3360	VLB	6428	ABC	10640	YHF
3415	ART	6500	PCD	10820	CIO
3485	KPA	6598	HDP	10970	MIW
3640	VLB	6658	CIO	11565	EZI
3840	YHF	6745	MIW	12376	CIO
4015	VLB	6840	EZI	12747	CIO
4165	CIO	6912	KPA	12950	SYN

4270	PCD	6930	CIO	13533	EZI
4360	CIO	6986	ART	13921	CIO
4463	FTJ	7358	FTJ	14530	YHF
4560	YHF	7445	MIW	14750	SYN
4604	ROV	7540	JSR	14866	VLB
4665	VLB	7605	SYN	15980	EZI
4780	KPA	7760	ULX	17170	SYN
4880	ULX	7811	CIO	17410	EZI
5091	JSR	7918	YHF	19715	EZI
5170	EZI	8025	CIO	21930	EZI

Feel free to send me your loggings of spy numbers stations, or suggestions for a column topic. My email address is chris@spynumbers.com

Also be sure to visit <http://www.spynumbers.com/> for up to date information about spy numbers stations, and the searchable online database of over 45,000 loggings!

Radio Gerbil

Your Station for all that's taste, but GROSSFUL!

John T. Arthur of Belfast NY
had the distinct misfortune of hearing Radio Gerbil on

Date: March 19/2000 Time: 1820 UTC

Freq.: 6955 AM MHz

Bram

your host: Bram Butterack



Micro'casting

Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572
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THE NEWS: Recently, I got a 77-minute CD from some fellow microbroadcasters up in Seattle, WA, for a broadcast called, "Five Days Over Seattle, an audio document of free radio station Y2WTKO". Herewith, a quote from their letter: "This station is a project of a small affinity group from the Radio Free Cascadia collective based in Eugene, OR. During the WTO (World Trade Organization, bs) protests in Seattle of Nov.-Dec 1999, we operated an FM micro-station from a platform in a hemlock tree on the Olympic Peninsula with yagi antennas for two alterante frequencies aimed at downtown Seattle. Originally intended to be 100 watts, technical problems bumped us down to lower power, but our signal was received well enough in Seattle for recordings to be made off the air. This 77-minute CD was edited from the large archive of recordings. It was three years in the making...."

"In Sept. 2002, the elements of the Y2WTKO affinity joined forces with Free Radio Olympia (WA) to operate a 100 watt transmitter, again from a tree on the peninsula aimed at Seattle for the Electronic Mosquito Fleet, a swarm-cast of FM micro-radio operators from around the nation who took over the empty spaces and cracks of Seattle's dial to protest the National Association of Broadcaster's annual Radio Show which was held in Seattle. Our operation was called Justice Airwaves Mobilization, or JAM 101.1 FM. We had a studio in Seattle with a studio-to-transmitter link. JAM repeated its broadcast for two nights on shortwave at 6955 kHz., including live coverage of Amy Goodman's keynote address. Recordings were made of JAM as well; hopefully someday, we will have another CD... miscreant"

And I certainly hope so! After listening to the CD, I determined that it is definitely for adult ears only; there is some language best not mentioned around small children. However, it's a real-live, sho-nuff representation of what happened & puts you right there, on-scene at the WTO protests, and probably revealed things your nightly gov't controlled news media didn't report! I am very thankful to miscreant and the bunch for their efforts in their fight for free and micro radio!

If you are interested in obtaining one of these CDs AND supporting their efforts in the fight, you may buy them at: <http://www.cascadiamedia.org/emedistro.html> and can be paid by credit card using Paypal, or you may send a check to: CMC Distro, PO Box 703, Eugene, OR 97440. CMC Distro can be e-mailed at: thecmc@efh.org.

THE END: Well, all good things must come to an end, and it is so with this column. Due to lack of support in many areas, and lack of time on my part due to family and work, I must step down. It has been fun serving you these past years and who knows? Thanks go out to those who supported the column and to the past editors I worked with all the way back to before, I believe, Keith Thibodeaux (who was it, anyway, John? bs). (Kirk Baxter, both before and after Keith. jta) But, it's been fun for the most part; the death-knell for me, I suppose, was 'way back when Congress and the National Association of Broadcasters collaborated to rip the guts out of any legislation that would have given us a chance in the hobby. I am looking at ways to smooth out work and family, so that I can maybe have some spare time in the future to delve back into the varied radio hobbies. In the meantime, John Arthur may provide an outlet for those of you who may wish to contribute free micro radio news and tidbits. Thanks a bunch. Be radioactive! 73, de Bud

Thank YOU, Bud! If any of our readers would like to pick up where Bud left off, please email me for details. jta

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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